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TO: Ambassador Albright

THRU: Ambassador Gnehm

FROM: POL - Cameron R. Hume *WFW*

RELEASED IN FULL

SUBJECT: Security Council Informals on Burundi, December 21, 10:30 am

Background

We have circulated a draft Presidential statement on Burundi to all members. We have prepared a slight revision which incorporates UK and Russian suggestions, which we can give to the Secretariat to distribute. Everyone is in favor of issuing a statement today. There is a slight confusion over the actual situation on the ground regarding the resignation of the President of the Parliament (Minani). The Secretariat told us the crisis was definitely resolved and Minani was stepping aside. The French, however, have reports that the problem still lingers. The US Embassy in Bujumbura doesn't know for sure where things stand. New language proposed by the UK finesses the issue, and shouldn't really cause a problem.

The French and Russians both want to endorse holding a larger political conference. Washington has no problem with that idea, as long as it remains clear that the regional refugee conference will be predominant and will be held first. We amended the text to put in language which tracks with the language in the Council's Oct 21 statement on Burundi, and Oct 14 statement on Rwanda. We would not be in favor of a French proposal to refer to the refugee conference "in the context" of the political conference. We think the refugee conference needs to deal with concrete, tangible steps and not get bogged down, at this point, in theories.

Talking Points

- o We have worked closely with other interested delegations on a draft text for a statement on Burundi and are in favor of issuing it this afternoon, if agreement can be reached.

drafted: POL:LLShestack, wang 24555, 12/21/94  
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